TL 1810

PETITION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 24 IN SUPPORT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLES OF EAST TIMOR

We, the Philippine Solidarity for East Timor and Indonesia (PSETI),

Denouncing the amoral maneuvers of our very own government to stop the holding of the Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor (APCET) for fear of damaging official Philippine-Indonesian relations,

Decrying the hypocrisy and insincerity of the Ramos government with regard to freedom of speech and assembly and respect for human rights,

Subscribing to the just cause of the East Timorese peoples for self determination and recognizing East Timor as a sovereign nation and neighbor in the same South East Asian region,

Strongly condemning the orchestrated genocide and obliteration of the Maubere people and culture by the Suharto government and its continued illegal occupation of East Timor in utmost defiance of UN resolutions,

Strongly concerned over the unabated plunder of East Timorese human and natural resources by Indonesia, Australia and other non-East Timorese interest groups,

Strongly denouncing Indonesia's forced mass sterilization of East Timorese women and other acts of atrocities against them,

Alarmed by Indonesian policy to deny representatives of human rights and other international humanitarian and aid formations, media practitioners, church representatives and other relief and mercy missions and delegations access to East Timor,

1. Declare our solidarity with the East Timorese peoples and reiterate our firm belief in the justness of their cause for self determination,

2. Strongly reject and protest the ploy to treat the East Timor question as an issue internal only to the Suharto government on grounds of its amoral claims to it as its 27th province,

3. Renew our commitment to the universality of human rights, particularly in the Philippines, East Timor and Indonesia,

4. Affirm our support to the peace proposal of the National Council for Maubere Resistance (CNRM),

5. Strongly support the demand of the CNRM for the full involvement and participation of the East Timorese peoples themselves in any negotiations towards the just resolution of the East Timor question,

6. Demand the release of Fretilin leader Xanana Gusmao and all other political prisoners languishing in Indonesian jails,

7. Demand a halt to Indonesia's transmigration and "Javanization" policy and other genocidal practices in East Timor,

8. Strongly advocate, through the United Nations, the imposition of legal, moral, cultural, economic, and political sanctions against Indonesia for the illegal occupation of East Timor and the resulting irreparable human and material losses,

9. Appeal to the international community particularly to the United Nations, the Catholic Church and other humanitarian organizations to take a persistent, more active and constructive engagement in East Timor's decolonization process,

Signed on the 8th day of July 1994.

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Initial Members

A. Metro Manila
AKSYUN (Coalition for Peace)
Alliance for Mindanao Concerns (AMIC)
Ateneo University Human Rights Center
Bukluran Para sa Ikauunlad ng Sosyalistang Isip at Gawa (BISIG)
Caucus of Development NGOs (CODE-NGO)
Consortium for People's Democracy
Council for National Freedom and Democratic Rights (Confreedem)
Ecumenical Bishops Forum (EBF)
Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
Lean L. Alejandro Foundation
Moro Human Rights Center
Movement for Popular Democracy

Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas
People's Council for International Solidarity and Peace (PCISP)
Salinlahi
Sandigan ng Lakas at Demokrasya ng Sambayanan (SANLAKAS)
SARILAYA Women's Organization
Siglo ng Paglaya (SIGLAYA)
Women's Legal Bureau (WLB)

B. Regional Members.

Action for Community Empowerment and Services, Inc. (ACES), Northern Samar
Concerted Actions for the Upliftment of Student Endeavors (CAUSE), Dumaguete City
Notre Dame University Peace Center, Cotobato City
Provincial Integrated Development Coordinating Council, Pagadian City

Note: This petition was forwarded to the UN Decolonisation Committee through Mr. Charles Scheiner, UN Representative, International Federation for East Timor (IFET), Fax: +1-914-428-7383, NY, USA.